

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 SY-10 NEA-10 OMB-01 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 190842Z SEP 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 174

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6380

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS

1. DECISION BY PRO-GOVERNMENT PARTIES TO MAKE JAPANESE ATTITUDE TOWARD KIM TAE-CHUNG KIDNAPPING AN ISSUE IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION WHICH OPENS SEPTEMBER 20 WAS MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IN KIM CASE IN SEOUL.

2. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY (DRP) AND REVITALIZATION GROUP (RG) DECIDED AT SEPARATE CAUCUSES SEPTEMBER 19 TO CONDUCT FULL INTERPELLATIONS ON KIM CASE "TO CORRECT DISTORTIONS BY SOME JAPANESE POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS". RG SPOKESMAN YI CHONG-SIK WAS QUOTED AS SAYING JAPANESE ATTITUDE "EXCEEDEED INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND APPEARED AIMED AT TOPPLING THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT". DRP FLOOR LEADER KIM YONG-T'AE REPORTEDLY SAID INTERPELLATIONS WERE NEEDED TO INQUIRE INTO THE BIASED ATTITUDE OF SOME JAPANESE POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS AND TO REVEAL "THE RASH AND INDISCREET ACTIONS WHICH CAUSED THE KIM TAE-CHUNG INCIDENT" (APPARENTLY REFERRING TO KIM TAE-CHUNG'S ACTIVITY ABROAD).

3. COMMENT: DECISION OT INTERPELLATE GOVERNMENT
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ON KIM CASE IS NOT ONE DRP AND RG WOULD ARRIVE AT

WITHOUT CLEAR DIRECTIONS FROM ABOVE. IN PAST WEEKS
RANKING ROKG OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE
BEEN GIVING SIGNALS TO JAPANESE THAT CONTINUED
PRESSURE ON KIM CASE WOULD LEAD TO MANIFESTATIONS
OF ANTI-AJAPANESE SENTITMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY. GIVEN GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL OF ASSEMBLY,
IT IS IN A POSITION TO MANAGE INTERPELLATIONS ON
THE KIM CASE IN ANY FASHION IT WISHES.

4. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SOURCE INFORMS US THAT
INTERPELLATIONS ON KIM TAE-CHUNG AFFAIR ARE SCHEDULED
FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 24, AND 25.
HABIB

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